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TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY, 1943

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
12th January, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotion in and appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

*To be an Additional Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Commander (Acting Captain) Cecil Lewis Howe, O.B.E., Royal Navy.

For outstanding services to the Eighth Army in Egypt.

*To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Acting Commander (E) Oswald John Gerard, Royal Navy.

*To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Mr. Francis William Barton, Gunner, Royal Navy.

Mr. William Francis McConnell Arnold Eddy, Warrant Shipwright, Royal Navy.

For energy and skill in saving their ship when she was damaged by enemy action.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
12th January, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal for outstanding bravery in fighting fires to:

Commander George Chesterman Phillips, D.S.O., Royal Navy.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
12th January, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to:

Chief Petty Officer William Joseph Triggs, D/JX.138571.

Acting Petty Officer Henry Phuler Holcombe, D/J.108244.

Chief Stoker Rex Webber, D/K.57075.

Engine Room Artificer 1st Class Edwin Charles Hingston, D/M 18951.

Leading Steward John Cook, D/LX.21781.

Able Seaman Ronald Josiah Harris, D/JX.188003.

For energy and skill in saving their ship when she was damaged by enemy action.

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ADMIRALTY.

*Whitehall, S.W.1.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS, for valour in the defence of a convoy, to:

Captain Robert St. Vincent Sherbrooke, D.S.O., Royal Navy.

Captain Sherbrooke, in H.M.S. Onslow, was the Senior Officer in command of the destroyers escorting an important convoy bound for North Russia. On the morning of 31st December, off the North Cape, he made contact with a greatly superior enemy force which was attempting to destroy the convoy. Captain Sherbrooke led his destroyers into attack and closed the Enemy. Four times the Enemy tried to attack the convoy, but was forced each time to withdraw behind a

smoke screen to avoid the threat of torpedooes, and each time Captain Sherbrooke pursued him and drove him outside gun range of the convoy and towards our covering forces. These engagements lasted about two hours, but after the first forty minutes H.M.S. Onslow was hit, and Captain Sherbrooke was seriously wounded in the face and temporarily lost the use of one eye. Nevertheless he continued to direct the ships under his command until further hits on his own ship compelled him to disengage, but not until he was satisfied that the next Senior Officer had assumed control. It was only then that he agreed to leave the bridge for medical attention, and until the convoy was out of danger he insisted on receiving all reports of the action.

His courage, his fortitude and his cool and prompt decisions inspired all around him. By his leadership and example the convoy was saved from damage and was brought safely to its destination.

His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to give Orders for the following Appointment to the Distinguished Service Order, and to approve the following Awards:

For skill and enterprise while in command of H.M.S. Petard in a successful attack on an enemy submarine:

*To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order:*

Lieutenant-Commander Mark Thornton,  
D.S.C., Royal Navy.

For gallantry and skill in flying operations in the Middle East:

*The Distinguished Service Cross.*

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Frederick Brian Cooper, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Oswald Samuel Ernest Lloyd, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) William Dickson Orwin, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Leonard Wilkins, R.N.V.R.

*The Distinguished Service Medal*

Acting Petty Officer (Air) John Duncan Mackechnie, FAA/FX.77186.

Leading Airman Angus Scott Harper, FAA/FX 77345.

*Mention in Despatches.*

Temporary Lieutenant (A) Gerald Frederick Arnold, R.N.V.R.

For services to the Eighth Army in Egypt:

*Mention in Despatches.*

Captain Philip Ruck-Keene, Royal Navy.  
Captain George Walter Gillow Simpson,  
C.B.E., Royal Navy

For energy and skill in saving their ship when she was mined:

*Mention in Despatches*

Chief Petty Officer Hector McDonald, D/J. 77519.

Chief Stoker William Henry Charles Kelly, D/K.57969.

Master-at-Arms John Charles Henry Harber, D/M.39787.

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